(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) what is the result thereof and what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Directorate of Economic Research of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has conducted a Census of 13,216 biogas plants in 14 selected districts of Maharashtra, Bihar and Tamil Nadu covering plants constructed under the aegis of KVIC during the period 1974-75 to 1981-82 (before the period of launching of the National Project for Biogas Development). KVIC state that 826 plants which were under construction at the time of the survey were classified as nontraceable and re-verification is being undertaken to determine the final position. KVIC has also initiated appropriate departmental action in regard to a few cases relating to cement and steel.

The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES) monitor the National Project for Biogas Development through receipt of Inspection Reports from the State Governments and KVIC by conduct of survey by independent agencies, such as National Council of Applied Economic Research, etc., through field inspection done by its own staff with the Regional Offices, and is in the process of establishing 7 Monitoring Cells in different parts of the country. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is continuing to strengthen its monitoring mechanism.

बरियारपुर टेलीफोन सेवा

643. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुंगेर जिले में बरियारपुर स्थित टेलीफोन केन्द्र को अभी तक मजबूत नहीं किया गया है और वहां एस०टी०डी० सुविधाएं उपलब्ध नहीं करायी गयी हैं जिसके फलस्वरूप संसद् सदस्यों को भी संतोषजनक टेलीफोन सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं हो रही है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में स्थित में सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम निवास मिर्धा) : (क) बरियारपुर के टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को समर्थ बना दिया गया है। छोटे आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंजों में एस०टी०डी० सेवा चालू करना संभव नहीं है। इनकी सेवा संतोषजनक है।

(ख) उपर्युक्त (क) को देखते प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Appointment of Chief Executives, etc in Public Sector Enterprises

644. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALRAM:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of as many as 44 Chief Executives and Functional Directors, Chairmen or Managing Directors in various public sector enterprises have been kept in abeyance so far even after the selection of the incumbents had been completed by the Public Enterprises Selection Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the impact on the overall functioning of those units of the delay in making these appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to available information, the number of vacancies at the level of Chief Executives (full-time Chairmen/Managing Directors) and Functional Directors in Central Public Enterprises, for which the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have made recommendations but appointments are yet to be made by Government are 20 and 24 respectively.

(b) The recommendations of the PESB are processed by the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned and appointments are made only with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Appointments could be made only after getting vigilance clearance, verification of character and antecedents of individuals prior to their appointments and completing other formalities. In regard to existing vacancies officiating arrangements have been made so that the work of these enterprises does not suffer.

Case connected with Bhopal Gas tragedy

645. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government lawyers connected with the Bhopal gas disaster case have suggested to Government for an out of the Court Settlement of the case as reported in the 'Times of India', dated January 22, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision has since been taken as to whether the case is to be heard in India or abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Negotiations with Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) are being held under the umbrella and directions of the Court which are to be respected.

(c) The ruling of the Court on the motion of forum non-conveniens moved by the Union Carbide Corporation is awaited.

Import value of bulk drugs

646. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the value of import of bulk drugs during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(b) what percentage of this amount was imported by wholly indian-owned Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The value of bulk drugs imported during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 is as follows:—

	Rs. crores
1913-14 . . .	123.06
1984-85 . . .	178.41

(b) Sectorwise details of imports Ministry.

कलोल स्थित कुएं में आग

647. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग** : क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कालोल (गुजरात) में प्राकृतिक गैस के कुएं में आग लगने के क्या कारण थे ;

(ख) इस आग को बुझाने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किये गये तथा इस पर कितना खर्च किया गया ;

(ग) इस संबंध में ली गयी विदेशी सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और